

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application including independent claims 1, 11, and 16. Claims 2-9 and 11-15 are indicated as allowable. New claims 21-22 have been added.

The drawings stand objected to for not showing the axle shaft axis being parallel and spaced apart from the wheel axis wherein the wheel axis is vertically higher than the axle axis. The wheel axis of rotation is identified as element "60" and the axle shaft axis of rotation is identified by number "54." In a preliminary amendment faxed to the Patent Office on December 9, 2004, (copy attached as Exhibit A) applicant amended paragraph [31] to correct the numbering of the wheel axis of rotation from number "58" to number "60." This feature is shown in Figure 2 as originally filed. Figure 2 clearly shows that the wheel axis of rotation 60 is vertically higher than the axle shaft axis of rotation 54. Thus, applicant asserts that the features set forth in claims 10, 16, and 17 are shown in the drawings.

Applicant is submitting a replacement drawing for Figure 5A to correct the identification for the wheel axis of rotation (originally shown as "58") to be "60". Further, the axle shaft axis, which was shown but not numbered in the original submission of Figure 5A, has now been identified with the number "54." Figure 5A also shows the features set forth in claims 10, 16, and 17. A replacement drawing sheet is thus submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

The specification stands objected to with regard to the identification of the wheel axis of rotation set forth in paragraph [31]. As explained above, this numbering error was corrected in the Preliminary Amendment submitted on December 9, 2004 (see Exhibit A). Further, with regard to the examiner's objection to the term "axes," each wheel end includes a wheel shaft 82 that defines an axis of rotation. Thus, the wheel shafts 82 define axes of rotation for the wheel ends. Applicant respectfully asserts that no further revisions to the specification are needed and requests that the objection be withdrawn.

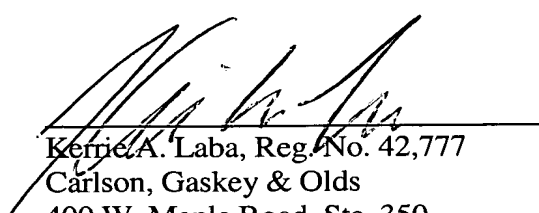
Claims 10 and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. For the reasons set forth above, claims 10 and 16-20 are fully supported by the specification and the drawings and applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stech (US 5377736). Claim 1 recites the feature of a seal assembly cooperating with the first end of the laterally extending bore to provide a sealed air flow path extending from the air source, through the bore, and to the tire assembly. Stech does not disclose this feature.

Stech discloses a laterally extending bore 20 that transitions into a radially extending bore 13. A rotatable coupling is connected between the radially extending bore 13 and the air line 38. The coupling includes a stationary tubular sleeve 22 with an interior surface 27 that is spaced from the axle 12 to form an air pocket above the radially extending bore 13. The sleeve 22 includes a port 23 that fluidly connects the air pocket with the air line 38. Seals 26, 28 are used to seal against opposing ends of the sleeve 22. The seals 26, 28 include O-rings that engage the axle 12. Thus, Stech does not disclose a seal assembly that cooperates with a first end of a laterally extending bore as defined in claim 1.

Applicant asserts that all claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an indication of such. A check is enclosed to cover the cost of two additional dependent claims. Applicant believes that no additional fees are necessary, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

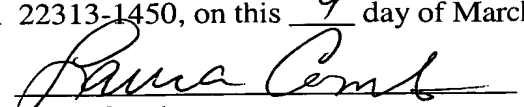
Respectfully submitted,


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Dated: March 9, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed Response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 9 day of March, 2006.


Laura Combs